

use them to an emergency like this.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Weihing, followed by Senator Landis and Wesely.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, it is really nice and easy to be an administrator when you are on the house, on the floor of the Legislature, being an administrator of the university. I do wish that Senator Moore has a little experience at being such an administrator of such type of unit. These things all seem so easy. First, let us take up, it was in the budget last year and it was passed by this body. It was vetoed. That was line-item vetoed. There were others, there were some of us on the floor who had an amendment to override that veto. We were in the process of doing that and the word came, and it came that there was a compromise within the Governor's Office that this would be put into this year's budget, the interim budget. Did you hear that, Senator Moore? Senator Moore, did you hear me? This was...this was in the budget last year. It is not something new, and there was a compromise from the Governor's Office that we could put this in after it was vetoed out. Now this is discussions that went on through the...so it was not new. Now do we come back to what's important? That goes without saying, and I assure you if that engineering college is not accredited, the University of Nebraska in that area drops quickly. Is engineering important? If there is one area that this United States is being deficient right now in producing is in the area of engineering, and when we come to the competition of Japan and West Germany and France and other areas, we are beginning to lose the game of competition very rapidly. It is an area that we cannot allow to become deficient. Now let us go to the equipment, this body, and I can't give you the year as I was not on the floor at the time, set up a system whereby they would have the replacement, monies for replacement of equipment, and equipment is extremely vital. It isn't something such as a chair. The advancements in technology go on not every year but every month, and it is necessary that our students that come on, our undergraduates and our graduates, have the latest in order to be in competition with the rest of the world. It is not inexpensive, true, but it is an absolute necessity. But coming back, this body did set up a system and then the downturn in the economics of our state in the eighties and this was cut out, never reinstated. Perhaps Senator Lowell Johnson can speak to this. I do not have my file here. I was not expecting this. I urge the body to defeat